AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application:

Please amend claims 21 and 36.

Please cancel claims 25, 26, 35, 40, 41 and 50.

1-20 (Canceled)

21. (**Currently Amended**) A computer method for processing international and domestic collection items, the method comprising:

A. receiving a plurality of collection items and documents accompanying the collection items;

B. sorting and indexing each received collection item in accordance with a predetermined collection item type comprising international collections item types and domestic collections item types wherein international collection item types comprise collection incoming international items, collection incoming international on-us items, collection outgoing international items, international cash letter items, premier/premier items, premier/standard items and standard/standard items and wherein domestic collection item types comprise collection incoming non-cash items, collection incoming non-cash on-us items, collection outgoing non-cash items, collection outgoing cash items, coupon outgoing cash items, coupon outgoing noncash items and payable thru draft items;

C. scanning the collection item to create an image of the collection item, wherein a user of the system determines the method to scan the collection item and the user initiates the scanning method, wherein scanning comprises scanning with a check scanner if the incoming collection item is a check and scanning comprises scanning with a flatbed scanner if the incoming collection item is not a check;

D. determining if any machine-readable code exists on the collection item;

E. if any machine-readable code is determined to exist on the collection item, reading that code by machine;

F. determining by the user of the system if the collection item needs to be endorsed, endorsing the collection item, if necessary and scanning the endorsed collection item to create an image of the endorsed collection item;

G. thereafter scanning any documents accompanying the collection item to create an image for each accompanying document;

H. saving by the user the scanned collection item, the scanned endorsed collection item, if any, the code readout, if any, and each scanned accompanying document as a unit of work in a database and designating each unit of work a searchable unique database index key;

I. retrieving by the user a unit of work from the database and displaying selected images from the unit of work at a user display connected to a client;

J. automatically filling processing data into a processing display relating to the collection item of the displayed unit of work if the processing data were stored in the database;

K. inputting processing data to the client regarding the collection item represented by the displayed unit of work if that data were not automatically filled in the processing display, the processing data comprising:

    1. the party to whom payment of the collection item will be made;

    2. the party that issued the collection item;

    3. the amount of the collection item; and

    4. the method by which payment of the collection item is to be settled; and

L. saving the inputted processing data for the collection item represented by the displayed unit of work;

M. displaying a balance and distribution screen at a user display;

N. distributing funds and balancing accounts of processed collection items; and

O. processing payment of collection items, wherein an application server coupled to the client and the database is configured to:

    1. create queues for storing data to be used during processing of the collection items;

    2. dynamically track and update the status of the queues;

    3. provide an interface with external systems; and

    4. access unit of work data stored in the database whereby the data from the database are available to the client and interface with external systems.

    P. <u>archiving units of work to an archive system and deleting the archived units of work from the database.</u>

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the external systems comprise one or more of FEDWIRE, CHIPS and SWIFT.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the method by which payment is to be settled comprises demand deposit account, cashier's check, FEDWIRE or CHIPS.

24. (Canceled)

25. (**Canceled**)

26. (**Canceled**)

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising scanning each document that is not determined to be an international collections item type or a domestic collections item type to create an image of the non- international collections item or domestic collections item and saving the incoming non- international collections item or domestic collections item to the database under a searchable unique database index key.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the searchable unique database index key is indicative of the predetermined collection item type.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the searchable unique database key is further indicative of the intra-day item sequence number.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein processing data further comprises collections item type, reference information about the collection item, date of the collection item, check number of check, if any, drawee bank, fees associated with processing, currency, country of origin and deposit ticket number, if any.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein distributing funds and balancing accounts of processed collection items comprises at least one of receiving processed collection items, creating a cash letter, printing customer advices of debit/credit, creating a collection letter or creating a deposit ticket.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein processing payment on collection items comprises at least one of receiving payment on a collection item, scanning and indexing the received payment and referencing the index number of the corresponding collection item.

35. (**Canceled**)

36. (**Currently Amended**) A computer system for processing international and domestic collection items, the system comprising:

    A. a receiver configured to receive a plurality of collection items and documents accompanying the collection items;

    B. a sorter configured to sort and index each received collection item in accordance with a predetermined collection item type comprising international collections item types and domestic collections item types wherein international collection item types comprise collection incoming international items, collection incoming international on-us items, collection outgoing international items, international cash letter items, premier/premier items, premier/standard items and standard/standard items and wherein domestic collection item types comprise collection incoming non-cash items, collection incoming non-cash on-us items, collection outgoing non-cash items, collection outgoing cash items, coupon outgoing cash items, coupon outgoing noncash items and payable thru draft items;

    C. a detector configured to read any machine-readable code that exists on the collection item;

    D. an endorser configured to endorse the collection item, if the user determines that endorsement is necessary;

    E. one or more scanners configured to scan the collection item to create an image of the collection item, the endorsed collection item and any documents accompanying the collection items, wherein a user of the system determines the method to scan the collection item and the user initiates the scanning method , wherein scanning comprises scanning with a check scanner if the incoming collection item is a check and scanning comprises scanning with a flatbed scanner if the incoming collection item is not a check;

    F. one or more databases configured to save scanned images of the scanned collection item, the scanned endorsed collection item, if any, code read from the collection item, if any,

and scanned accompanying document as a unit of work under a searchable unique database index key;

G. a first display unit configured to display selected images from the unit of work to the user;

H. a processing unit configured to automatically fill processing data into a processing display relating to the collection item of the displayed unit of work if the processing data were stored in the database;

I. an input device configured for inputting processing data by the user regarding the collection item represented by the displayed unit of work if that data were not automatically filled in the processing display, the processing data comprising:

    1. the party to whom payment of the collection item will be made;

    2. the party that issued the collection item;

    3. the amount of the collection item; and

    4. the method by which payment of the collection item is to be settled; and

J. a second display unit configured to display a balance and distribution screen to the user;

K. a distributing and balancing unit configured to distribute funds and balance accounts by the user of processed collection items;

L. a payment processing unit configured to process payment by the user of collection items; and

M. an application server coupled to the database that is configured to:

    1. create queues for storing data to be used during processing of the collection items;

    2. dynamically track and update the status of the queues;

    3. provide an interface with external systems; and

    4. access unit of work data stored in the database whereby the data from the database are available to the client and interface with external systems.

N. <u>an archive system configured to archive units of work to an archive system and delete the archived units of work from the database.</u>

37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, wherein the external systems comprise one or more of FEDWIRE, CHIPS and SWIFT.

38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, wherein the method by which payment is to be settled comprises demand deposit account, cashier's check, FEDWIRE or CHIPS.

39. (Canceled)

40. (**Canceled**)

41. (**Canceled**)

42. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, further comprising scanning each document that is not determined to be an international collections item type or a domestic collections item type to create an image of the non- international collections item or domestic collections item and saving the incoming non- international collections item or domestic collections item to the database under a searchable unique database index key.

43. (Canceled)

44. (Canceled)

45. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, wherein the searchable unique database index key is indicative of the predetermined collection item type.

46. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 45, wherein the searchable unique database key is further indicative of the intra-day item sequence number.

47. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, wherein the processing data further comprises collections item type, reference information about the collection item, date of the collection item, check number of check, if any, drawee bank, fees associated with processing, currency, country of origin and deposit ticket number, if any.

48. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, wherein the distributing and balancing unit is configured to receive processed collection items, create a cash letter, print customer advices of debit/credit, create a collection letter or create a deposit ticket.

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, wherein the payment processing unit is configured to receive payment on a collection item, scan and index the received payment and reference the index number of the corresponding collection item.

50. (**Canceled**)